(b) what is the total area of forest deforested during the above period; and

(c) whether any special audit has been conducted to ascertain the factual position about the success in tree plantation in lieu of deforestation and what is the assessment report in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Killing of wild animals and felling of Trees in Himachal Pradesh

1710. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that killing of wild animals and cutting of trees in forests in still going on in the forests of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

(c) whether Government intend to check such killing of wild animal and cutting of trees and take action against the persons involved in such acts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Cases of killing of wild animals and felling of trees are detected in Himachal Pradesh from time to time.

(b) The details of poaching cases received from the State Government is as follows:

Year	No. of cases
1995-96	4
1996-97	13
1997-98	2

The information of felling of trees is not compiled and collated in the Ministry.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The action taken to control poaching and illegal felling of trees include:

(i) Regular patrolling by the field staff.

(ii) Legal action against the offenders.

(iii) Enlisting support of local community through Joint Forest Management and Eco-development Programmes.

(iv) Providing compensation for lose of life and property.

(v) Providing funds for purchase of wireless equipment for better protecting.

Urban Green Belt Programme

1711. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce urban green belt programme in some selected cities;

(b) if so, the cities identified for the purpose;

(c) the names of cities in Orissa where the above Centrally-sponsored urban afforestation programme is proposed to be implemented; and

(d) the details of funds earmarked for the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have initiated a programme on Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environmental Improvement in selected cities / towns. Under the programme, five cities/towns in Tamil Nadu have been taken up. These are: Chennai, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelvelli.

Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and Ganga Action Plan Phase—II, 80 towns in different States/Union Territories are covered for afforestation activiteis within the premises of sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, along the banks of effluent channels river courses, pathways and areas around crematoria and bathing ghats and low cost sanitation facilities etc.